

ABSTRACT

THESIS: The Importance of Perceived Safety in Clinician Workspaces Post-COVID 19

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Arguably, the only thing more troubling than the physical effects of COVID-19 is the way it has threatened our perception of safety in everyday life. This is especially true in clinical workplaces, as clinicians are the gateway to treatment and recovery not only from COVID-19, but from a variety of other disasters as well.

This study aimed to answer the following questions: Have providers made modifications to the furniture or furniture layout in the inpatient workspace? What modifications have been made? Do any modifications in furniture pieces or furniture layout affect the perception or feeling of safety in the inpatient workspace?

An anonymous survey was distributed through the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) network of over 13,000 members. Participants were asked if their clinical workspace has incorporated any changes in furniture placement (such as re-distribution or spreading out), or furniture pieces (such as screens or additional sanitization stations) as a result of COVID-19, followed by a series of questions about how these changes impacted their feeling of safety.

Results yielded the following design criteria: flexibility is key; as real estate is shrinking, clinicians want more space; safety needs to be made visible; the importance of equitable access to resources; and perceived safety is a business driver for healthcare organizations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PERCEIVED SAFETY IN PHYSICIAN WORKSPACES POST-COVID 19

This study begins to form the foundation of why this research is critical: perceived safety of the clinical workforce is imperative to maintaining a robust healthcare system in the United States that is capable of handling future pandemics and other disasters.

Keywords: perceived safety, clinical workplace, COVID-19, furniture